オヤジズム

終電なカンケイ

多々田ヨシオ
原案・芽獅

Final Stop : Relationship
By Oota Yoshio

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Chapter 1: The Station Attendant At My Local Train Station

THIS IS THE FINAL STOP.
CUS-TOM-ER,
=MER
YOU WERE SLEEP-ING SO PEACEFULLY THAT I COULDN'T BEAR TO WAKE YOU, BUT
YOU MUST BE TIRED, WORKING LATE INTO THE NIGHT LIKE THIS
THAT WAS MY AND YOKOSE -SAN'S FIRST MEETING.
OH NO, I FELL ASLEEP IN A STRANGE PLACE AGAIN!
OH!
"CUST-OMER"? --EH?!

WELL, I GUESS THAT'S NORMAL, AND IT CAN'T REALLY BE HELPED, BUT I'VE ACCUMULATED A LOT OF STRESS LATELY
ALL I DO EVERY DAY IS TRAVEL BACK AND FORTH BETWEEN HOME AND WORK.
OH, THERE'S YOKOSE-SAN
AND I STILL HAVEN'T CAUGHT UP ON SLEEP AFTER WORKING OVERTIME SEVERAL DAYS IN A ROW
ふぁ
HE'S THE SAME AS ALWAYS
Hello
Hello
WHAT'S THAT?
GOOD MORNING
OH, GOOD MORNING
I ALWAYS FEEL REJUVENATED SOMEHOW WHENEVER I SEE YOKOSE-SAN
WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT'S A GOOD THING.

YOU SHOULD ALSO BE CAREFUL.
Please Watch Out For Pigeon Droppings
AH,
IT APPEARS PIGEONS HAVE BUILT A NEST UP THERE

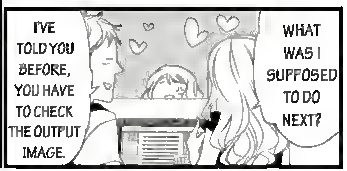
IT FELL ON THE PERSON WHO WAS WARNING OTHERS TO WATCH OUT!

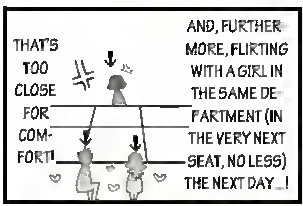
I DIDN'T ANTICIPATE THAT IT MIGHT HAPPEN TWICE...
SIGH..
SPLAT
I THOUGHT SOMETHING LIKE THIS MIGHT HAPPEN SO I BROUGHT AN EXTRA!
A-ARE YOU OKAY?!
Y-YES, I'M OKAY
Do you need a tissue?

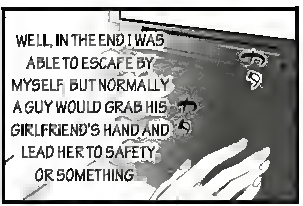
OH, THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING YOU WITH OUT YOUR HAT ON
HE'S THE TYPE YOU FEEL LIKE YOU CAN'T LEAVE ALONE...
YES!
PLEASE BE CARE-FUL.
I HADN'T THOUGHT OF THAT THANK YOU
OH, I SEE...
YOU SHOULD WAIT TO CHANGE UNTIL AFTER YOU MOVE OUT FROM UNDER THE NEST
SOME HOW I'M A LITTLE EMBAR-RASSED
HAHA
I SEE... AH YES, I SUPPOSE THAT'S TRUE
HE LOOKS EVEN YOUNGER WITHOUT HIS HAT ON
I FEEL RE JUVENATED SOMEHOW
YES!
WELL THEN, PLEASE TAKE CARE!

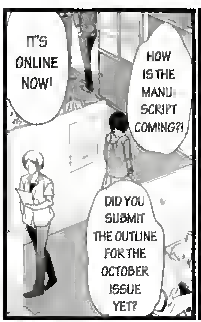
NO, NO, NO, HE'S THE KIND OF USELESS GUY WHO, WHEN A DRUNK PICKS A FIGHT WITH HIM, RUNS AWAY, LEAVING HIS GIRL-FRIEND ALL ALONE!!
YOU'RE SOOO RELIABLE, SAYAMA -KUN! ♡
THAT GIRL -FRIEND WAS ME! (EX-GIRL -FRIEND NOW)

OH NOOO!
WHEN I JUST CALMED DOWN...

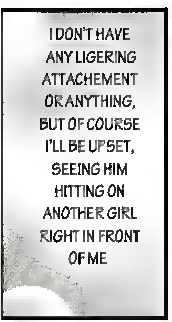

I'VE TOLD YOU BEFORE, YOU HAVE TO CHECK THE OUTPUT IMAGE.
WHAT WAS I SUPPOSED TO DO NEXT?


THAT'S TOO CLOSE FOR COM-FORT!!
AND, FURTHER-MORE, FLIRTING WITH A GIRL IN THE SAME DE-PARTMENT (IN THE VERY NEXT SEAT, NO LESS) THE NEXT DAY...!


WELL, IN THE END I WAS ABLE TO ESCAPE BY MYSELF, BUT NORMALLY A GUY WOULD GRAB HIS GIRLFRIEND'S HAND AND LEAD HER TO SAFETY OR SOMETHING...


IT'S ONLINE NOW!
HOW IS THE MANU-SCRIPT COMING?!
DID YOU SUBMIT THE OUTLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE YET?

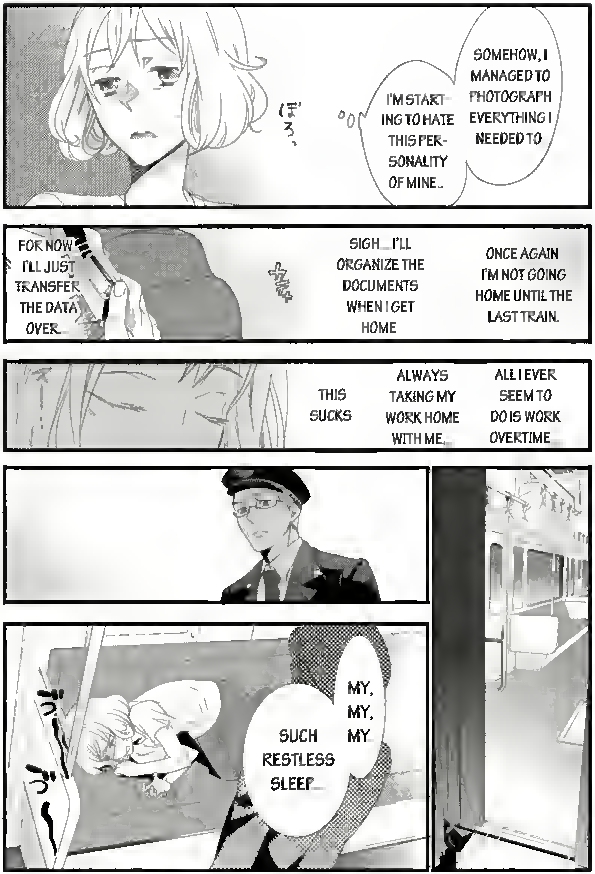
HEY, SAKASHINA, ARE YOU STILL NOT DONE WITH THAT ARTICLE?!
MAYBE I'LL LOOK FOR A NEW LOVE TOO !
I'M SUB-MITT-ING IT NOW!
I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR REFLECTION!


I DON'T HAVE ANY LIGERING ATTACHEMENT OR ANYTHING, BUT OF COURSE I'LL BE UPSET, SEEING HIM HITTING ON ANOTHER GIRL RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME

HUH?! WHY ME?!
COULD I GET YOU TO DO THIS INSTEAD OF SAYAMA?
SORRY, SARA SHINA.
ALRIGHT! IT LOOKS LIKE I'LL BE ABLE TO GO HOME EARLY TONIGHT FOR THE FIRST TIME IN A WHILE!
You surprised me!
I GUESS, IF IT'S JUST THIS ONCE
BUT I CAN'T REFUSE, EITHER, OR ELSE THE MAGAZINE WON'T BE DONE ON TIME.
FINE, I'LL DO IT
SORRY
USING THE BOSS AS A SHIELD ?!
UGH
It's really hard to get a reservation at that restaurant
PLEASE? SAYAMA HAS DINNER RESERVATIONS FOR TONIGHT, SO HE CAN'T DO IT
I-IT CAN'T BE HELPED, RIGHT? THE BOSS ASKED ME DIRECTLY TO DO IT...
WHY DID YOU AGREE TO DO IT?!
JEEZ, HIBARI.
YEAH, YEAH
SORRY! I OWE YOU ONE!
Just hurry up and go

IT'S TRUE!
EH ?
I HEARD HIM SAY EARLIER THAT HE'D MEET UP WITH HIS GIRLFRIE ND THERE!
HE'S GOING ON A DATE, YOU KNOW
NO WAY...?
PHOTOS OF AREAS NEAR THE STATION... MULTIPLE LOCATIONS, AND THE DEADLINE S TOMORROW?!
I BET THAT GUY LEFT THIS UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE BECAUSE GOING TO TAKE THE PHOTOS WAS TOO TROUBLESOME!
YOU ARE TOO GOOD-NATU-RED!
GRR, THAT BAS-TARD ...!
I'm going home now, too.
I DIDN'T COLLECT ENOUGH PHOTOS, SO I'M LEAVING IT TO YOU! SINCE IT'S ON YOUR WAY HOME, IT SHOULD BE FINE, RIGHT? SAYAMA ♡
No, it's not!

IF I START NOW, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE IT, SOMEHOW...!
I CAN'T STAY LONG AT ANY ONE PLACE SO I HAVE TO TAKE AS MANY PICTURES AS I CAN, AS FAST AS I CAN!
THE BOSS IS COUNTING ON ME TO GET THIS DONE!
I SHOULD BE HOME, EATING DINNER ALREADY BUT
There's quite a lot of couples
PH EW!
I RAN AROUND ENOUGH FOR AN ENTIRE MONTH!
THE TRAIN IS DEPARTING ON TRACK #4
Wait!
I HAVE TO LIVE UP TO HIS EXPECTATIONS AND GET IT DONE IN... TIME!


SOMEHOW, I MANAGED TO PHOTOGRAPH EVERYTHING I NEEDED TO
I'M START-ING TO HATE THIS PER-SONALITY OF MINE..
ぼ'ろ、
ONCE AGAIN I'M NOT GOING HOME UNTIL THE LAST TRAIN.
SIGH... I'LL ORGANIZE THE DOCUMENTS WHEN I GET HOME
FOR NOW I'LL JUST TRANSFER THE DATA OVER...
ALL I EVER SEEM TO DO IS WORK OVERTIME...
ALWAYS TAKING MY WORK HOME WITH ME...
THIS SUCKS
MY, MY, MY...
SUCH RESTLESS SLEEP...
ぐ'ぐ'

OH NO I FELL ASLEEP AGAIN?
YES, AND QUITE DEEPLY TOO
I CAN'T VERY WELL JUST LEAVE HER HERE
CUST-OMER, THIS IS THE FINAL STOP!
SHE LOOKS VERY TIRED... WELL, I SUP-POSE IT'S OKAY
I'LL BE MORE CAREFUL.
Is there such a thing as dozing cautiously?
YOU SHOULD BE MORE CAUTIOUS WHEN YOU DOZE OFF
SOMEONE COULD MISTAKE YOUR BAG FOR THEIRS AND WALK OFF WITH IT AND THERE ARE THIEVES AND PICKPOCKETS AS WELL.
This train will punish them for you!
IF YOU DO BE COME THE VICTIM OF ANY CRIMES, PLEASE INFORM ME IMMEDIA-TELY!
AH!
Such a specific random example
Y YE AH
Down-right deplor-able!
EH?
AND, BESIDES! THERE MIGHT BE SOME PUNKS WHO WOULD TRY TO PLAY A PRANK ON YOU OR SOMETHING!

AH!
Y-YES...
THERE'S THE MAGIC "YOKOSE HEALING SMILE"
BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY HOME
WELL THEN, IT'S QUITE LATE,
AH...I-I'M SORRY WHEN I STOOD UP I SUDDENLY FELT DIZZY
A-A-ARE YOU OKAY?!
!!
NO, I'M FINE NOW...
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD GO TO THE STATION MASTER'S OFFICE AND LIE DOWN FOR A BIT...

HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I WAS LAST CALLED A "GIRL"?
IF YOU WERE TO ASK ME WHAT I WOULD EXPECT AN OLDER MAN TO SMELL LIKE, I GUESS I'D ONLY COME UP WITH "REAKING OF TOO MUCH AFTER SHAVE," BUT
WHAT'S THIS? HE SMELLS GOOD LIKE SOME KIND OF CITRUS FRUIT
THAT WON'T DO! GIRLS NEED TO TREAT THEIR BODIES GENTLY!
AH...
I'M FINE NOW, SO...
NO
AH,
I-
I'M SORRY!

IT MUST HAVE SNAPPED WHEN I FELL. I REALLY LOVED THESE SHOES...
MY HEAL!
AH!
I'M SORRY!
YOUR PURSE SPILLED OUT ALL OVER THE PLACE
!!?
I STEPPED ON IT?!
I... TOOK IT OUT EARLIER... AND THEN FELL ASLEEP LIKE THAT, AND...
THE MEMORY CARD IS...
WHAT IS IT?

NO WAY!
FIRST, LET'S GET OFF THE TRAIN
ALL THOSE SHOPS
EVEN IF I GO BACK NOW OH BUT THE TRAIN ISN'T RUNNING ANYMORE.
I'LL NEVER MAKE IT IN TIME
THIS REALLY SUCKS...
SOB
HOW DID IT TURN OUT LIKE THIS...
THERE SHOULD BE A LIMIT EVEN TO GOOD-NATURED NESS!
THUD
THUD

HERE IT'S CLEAN
UH
UMM...
OH, THANK YOU
WAS THAT DATA FOR WORK?
PARDON ME, BUT
YOU SEE.
EH?
I HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO SENSE OF DIRECTION SO JUST TO BE SAFE I TOOK PHOTOS OF THE AREA AROUND EACH STATION AND PUT THEM IN ORDER...
IF IT'S FINE WITH YOU, I'LL GIVE YOU MY PICTURES
YES... I WAS TAKING PICTURES OF THE AREA AROUND THE STATION TO USE IN A MAGAZINE ARTICLE.
OOH
I DON'T HAVE TIME TO GO TAKE THEM AGAIN...
UM

THE WAY THEY'RE ORGANIZED IS EASY TO UNDERSTAND!
YES!
DO YOU THINK THEY WILL HELP?
WOW!
THERE ARE SO MANY!
JUST HAVE A LOOK AND SEE
STATION ATTENDANTS ARE FORBIDDEN TO WORK PART TIME
I CAN NOT ACCEPT ANY MONEY
ABOUT THE USAGE FEE FOR THESE PHOTOS ..
T-THERE'S NO NEED
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
TH-
YOU'RE ALWAYS WORKING SO HARD LATE INTO THE NIGHT I SHOULD ALSO LEARN TO BE MORE LIKE YOU!
EH?
BESIDES, I'M VERY HAPPY TO HAVE MY PHOTOS USED BY SOMEONE LIKE YOU

AH--
I...
CARE
FUL !
AH!
トス!
I'M SO
SORRY
AGAIN
LET'S FIX
YOUR SHOE
BEFORE
YOU GO.
YOU CAN'T
WALK ANY-
WHERE
LIKE THAT
YES. I'M
ALWAYS
BREAKING
THINGS,
TOO.
YOU
CAN FIX
IT!
OHH, YOU'RE
GOING TO
GLUE IT BACK
TOGETHER
WITH SUPER
GLUE, RIGHT?
THAT'S
RIGHT! I'M A
CLUZ, SO I
PREPARE
FOR ANY
POSSIBIL
LITY!

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ドキ
ドキン!
THERE!
ドキン
ドキン
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME SEEING HIM WITHOUT HIS GLOVES ON
I HOPE MY SHOE DOESN'T SMELL.
IT'S PER-FECT!
HOW DOES IT FEEL?
HE ISN'T WEARING A RING... DOES THAT MEAN... HE'S SINGLE?
I WAS SURE HE WAS MARRIED
OK
THAT SHOULD DO IT. TRY IT ON AND SEE.

デザイン館
NOT AT ALL, YOU HELPED ME EARLIER.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR ALL YOUR HELP TODAY.
ペコ
MORE IMPORTANTLY WILL YOU MAKE IT HOME OKAY THIS LATE?
YES, I'LL RUN THE REST OF THE WAY
YES!
WELL THEN, TAKE CARE ON YOUR WAY HOME!
Good-bye!
ヒタッ
フッ

WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, HE'S A VERY KIND AND RELIABLE PERSON.
I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A CLUMSY, FRIENDLY OLD MAN (WELL, ACTUALLY, HE IS, BUT...)

GOOD MORN-ING!
THIS IS THE LAST FAVOR I'M DOING FOR YOU. GOT IT?!
Y YES.
SO? DID YOU FINI-SH THE ARTICLE?
YOU REALLY ARE TOO GOOD-NATUR-ED
YOU MIGHT BE RIGHT.
BUT...
I DON'T GET YOU. YOU SHOULD'VE JUST LEFT HIS WORK UNDONE.
IF ONE PERSON'S WORK DOESN'T GET DONE, IT AFFECTS ALL OF US IN THE END, RIGHT?
you have a deviant personality!
I wanted to see him cry when the boss yelled at him about it.

I'VE COME TO LIKE BEING GOOD-NATURED.
HUH?
A NEW HANDKERCHIEF AND A THANK-YOU CARD...
THIS IS A THANK-YOU PRESENT FOR YOKOSE-SAN.
DOING IT LIKE THIS ISN'T TOO PUSHY, IS IT...?
I ALSO TOOK THIS CHANCE TO WRITE MY NAME AND CONTACT INFORMATION INSIDE.

MAYBE I'LL INVITE HIM TO DINNER IN THANKS FOR THE PHOTOGRAPHS.
I HOPE HE LIKES THE HANDKER-CHIEF.
TODAY HER SLEEPING FACE IS PEACEFUL.
HEH
YOU'RE WORKED HARD.